

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Domestic violence is verbal, emotional, physical or sexual behavior that is controlling, humiliating, intimidating, threatening or violent against a spouse, partner or family member; and,

Whereas, Domestic violence has a profound and devastating effect on individuals, families and communities in America; and,

Whereas, Domestic violence is the single largest cause of injury to women between the ages of 15 and 44 in the United States, more than muggings, car accidents and rapes combined; and,

Whereas, The direct costs of medical treatment for battered women annually are estimated at \$1.8 billion; and,

Whereas, Among women who report having been physically assaulted or stalked since they were 18 years old, 60 percent were victimized by a husband, co-habiting partner, a boyfriend or a date; and,

Whereas, Children who live in homes with arguing, insults or violence, suffer lifelong pain and often repeat the cycle of violence; and,

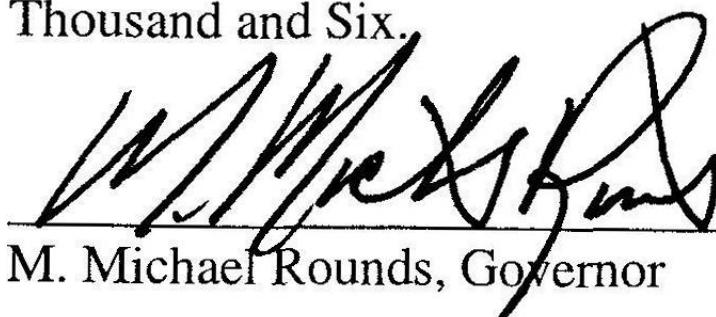
Whereas, In 2005, nonprofit victim service agencies reported 8,991 victims of domestic violence in South Dakota, and it is for all these reasons that we need to honor victims of domestic violence and those who serve them during the month of October and throughout the year:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 2006 as

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens to recognize and continue to work for justice and compassion for all victims of domestic violence.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-eighth Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.



M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:



Chris Nelson, Secretary of State

